

Message Text

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FOL RPT USUN NEW YORK 00933 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON,
MOSCOW, PARIS, PRETORIA, VIENNA & CAPE TOWN DTD 16 MAR 78

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 0
0933

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, PORG, UNSC, SF
SUBJECT: USSR CONSIDERING UNSC ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN
NUCLEAR ACTIVITY

REF: USUN 00898

1. IN FOLLOWING UP MISSION'S REPORT ON MARCH 13
TROYANOVSKY/MCHENRY CONVERSATION (REFTEL) MISSION NOTES
THAT POSSIBILITY OF SC ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR
QUESTION IS A STRAW THAT HAS BEEN IN THE UN WIND FOR SOME
TIME. THE 32ND UNGA PASSED A RESOLUTION DEALING
WITH THE SUBJECT LAST FALL. AT SEVERAL POINTS DURING
DECEMBER AND JANUARY THE UN'S AFRICAN GROUP CONSIDERED
THIS OPTION AS PART OF AN OVERALL STRATEGY ON DEALING
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PAGE 02 STATE 074859

WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN THE SC. TROYANOVSKY, WHEN COUNCIL
PRESIDENT, MENTIONED IT IN HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH US ON
FEBRUARY 8. IN SHORT, THE "SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ITEM"
NEEDS NO EXTENDED INTRODUCTION HERE. IT WOULD NOT TAKE
MUCH OF A SOVIET PUSH TO BRING IT QUICKLY TO A FRONT
BURNER, EITHER ON ITS OWN MERITS OR AS PART OF THE CONTIN-
UATION, INEVITABLE SOMETIME THIS SPRING, OF THE COUNCIL'S

OVERALL CONSIDERATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM.

2. IN SIDE CONVERSATION DURING SC MEETING MARCH 15, THE SECRETARIAT'S GLEISSNER TOLD POLCOUNS THAT NIGERIAN PERM-REP LESLIE HARRIMAN HAD JUST INFORMED HIM THAT THE AFRICANS INTENDED TO CALL FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM. THE EXPECTED TIMING WAS NOT MADE CLEAR, BUT GLEISSNER INFERRED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ITEM WOULD BE INTRODUCED LATE THIS MONTH OR NEXT.

3. IF AND WHEN ITEM IS BROUGHT TO THE COUNCIL, DRAFT RESOLUTION PUT FORWARD (WE ASSUME BY AFRICANS) WILL BE BASED ON 32ND GA'S RESOLUTION A/RES/32/81 (IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA). DEPARTMENT MAY WELL WISH TO CONSIDER BEGINNING NOW TO DEVELOP TACTICS AND ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR USE IN COUNCIL TREATMENT OF THIS ITEM. YOUNG UNQUOTE VANCE

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